

-- According to a preferred embodiment of an antimicrobial peptide in accordance with the invention, it comprises the following sequence (I) (1-letter code):

HX₁HX₂CTSYX₃CX₄KFCGTAX₅CTX₆YX₇CRX₈LHX₉GKX₁₀CX₁₁CX₁₂HCSR (I)

A₁ in which: X₁ = P or S, X₂ = V or A, X₃ = Y or W, X₄ = S or G, X₅ = S or G, X₆ = R or H, X₇ = G or L, X₈ = N or V, X₉ = R or P, X₁₀ = L or M, X₁₁ = F or A, and X₁₂ = L or V.

(SEQ ID NO: 5)--

✓
Please substitute the following for the paragraph on page 2, lines 6-11.

Advantageously, a peptide in accordance with the invention comprises one of the following sequences (Ia) or (Ib) (1-letter code):

A₂ HSHACTSYWCGKFCGTASCTHYLCRVLHPGKMCACVHCSR (Ia) (SEQ ID NO:6)

HPHVCTSYCYCSKFCGTAGCTRYGCRNLHRGKLCFCLHCSR (Ib) (SEQ ID NO:7).

✓
Please substitute the following amended claims for claims 2 - 4.

2. (Amended) The peptide of claim 1, comprising the following sequence (I):

A₃ HX₁HX₂CTSYX₃CX₄KFCGTAX₅CTX₆YX₇CRX₈LHX₉GKX₁₀CX₁₁CX₁₂HCSR (I)

in which: X₁ = P or S, X₂ = V or A, X₃ = Y or W, X₄ = S or G, X₅ = S or G, X₆ = R or H, X₇ = G or L, X₈ = N or V, X₉ = R or P, X₁₀ = L or M, X₁₁ = F or A, and X₁₂ = L or V

(SEQ ID NO: 5).